

The Eagle's Eye

125th Fighter Wing, Florida Air National Guard



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Commander's Column

By Colonel James A. Firth
125th Fighter Wing Commander

It is a tremendous honor to serve as the commander of such a talented, dedicated and experienced group of professionals. I never imagined I would be in this position of responsibility at the 125th and I will savor every moment and do my best to be the kind of leader this unit deserves.

I want to say a final 'thanks' to Col. Charles V. Ickes, II for the wonderful condition he left the Wing in. His will truly be giant shoes to fill. Under his leadership, the 125th maintained an unprecedented period of progress and accomplishment.

Colonel Ickes had the ability to make it fun to work hard and do our best. I wish him every success in his new position as the Chief Operating Officer for the Air National Guard.

In writing my first column, I have several points to make. First, I believe our most valuable resource is our people. I will rely heavily on you to continue doing the fantastic job you have done and to continue to look for ways to improve. We want to tap the experience, wisdom and imagination residing in our people. Lt. Col. Scott K. Stacy and I have a deliberate plan to "get out" and spend time in each section of the base.

A year ago, the atrocities of 9/11 reminded us why we serve in our nations' military. It doesn't look like the rapid pace we've kept since then will slow down. I am proud of the job you have done since Sept. 11.

Together, we've accomplished things we never dreamed. In addition to the incredible performance in Operation Noble Eagle, I want to thank everyone for the outstanding accomplishments achieved during Agile Archer 02 flying against the German MiG-29; resuming alert operations at Homestead, and the great effort made to prioritize wing end-of-year financial and facility needs.

In the months ahead we need to stay focused on our major goals. Our most important and immediate goal is for each unit and individual to be

ready for possible combat operations. I ask each of you to ask yourself, "Have I done everything possible to be ready for combat?"

As we look at the news events unfolding daily, it is important we realize this is not a time for a *business-as-usual* attitude. Our entire purpose as a unit is to be ready to excel under the most demanding, difficult, chaotic and dangerous conditions.

Prepare your families for what may lie ahead. Encourage them to build relationships with some of the other families in your unit or section to help provide a strong support structure in the event we deploy.

Operation Noble Eagle placed unprecedented demands on our people. I am working hard to inform key leaders in our chain of command of our people's issues. I want to assure everyone we will do everything possible to ensure our people are treated well, and that we will attempt to take individual needs and preferences into account, while accomplishing whatever mission we are tasked with.

Finally, there have been a number of important personnel moves in the wing recently. I am extremely fortunate to have Lt. Col. Scott K. Stacy as the new wing vice commander. He brings an extraordinary level of talent, experience, judgment and leadership ability to the job. Another extremely capable professional, Lt. Col. James O. Eifert, recently took over as the new operations group commander, replacing Colonel Alan K. Rutherford, who is now the first ever full-time Director of Operations for State Headquarters. Finally, Lt. Col. Ronald G. Corey will serve as acting logistics group commander while the process for the permanent replacement moves forward.

I look forward to working with each of you, as we face the challenges ahead. I ask each of you to maintain your positive attitude, especially when the going gets tough. A "*can do*" attitude, and a sense of humor at the right time, can make all the difference!



Not for the faint of heart



Photos by Staff Sgt. Michelle L. Thomas

By Staff Sgt. Michelle L. Thomas
125th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

Out in the middle of a lonely, overgrown field scattered with weeds and man-made holes, a small, yet disturbing burst of smoke billows into the mid-morning sky.

From an outsider's point of view, one would think that a forest fire has started or perhaps some spirited youngsters set off a few firecrackers.

However, the alarming yet purposeful smoke is the result of two men trained in a job that is definitely not for the faint of heart.

Technical Sgt. D.J. Moore and Master Sgt. Robert Drum, explosive ordnance disposal

(EOD) technicians at the 125th just disposed of a flare that had malfunctioned on one the F-15's here at the 125th Fighter Wing.

EOD is a science of vague assumptions, based on debatable data, taken from inconclusive experiments, with instruments of problematic accuracy, by persons of questionable mentality.

- USAF EOD Training Manual

Although the seasoned EOD veterans are trained to deal with everything from pipe bombs to the latest, greatest threat confronting the world today—anthrax—most days they are performing routine ordnance disposal. Or, in lay terms, *they blow stuff up*.

The 125th Civil Engineer Squadron's small 6-person explosive ordnance disposal flight routinely blows things up.

Usually, during aircraft ground emergencies at the 125th, EOD is typically called to respond to remove a flare that has malfunctioned.

After retrieving it, they take it back in the woods and dispose of it.

Air Force Explosive Ordnance Disposal

technicians are responsible for the safe disarming of any explosive device that threatens members of the U.S. Armed Forces.

Their primary function is to remove, disarm, or detonate in place any explosive material in a safe manner.

Continued...

According to Moore, EOD specialists are trained to disarm everything from a bomb on an aircraft wing that did not release, to improvised explosive devices (IEDs: pipe bombs and other home-made explosives), to nuclear weapons.

“We can handle everything from cell phones to atomic bombs,” said Moore, pointing at a cell phone. “Now-a-days, you just can’t predict what a suspicious item will appear in. The ‘shoe bomber’ is a perfect example.”

The possible fatal hazards of the job do not appear to daunt them in the least.

In fact, they seem to enjoy the danger of their occupation.

This may explain why the first paragraph of the Air Force EOD training manual reads:

“EOD is a science of vague assumptions, based on debatable data, taken from inconclusive experiments, with instruments of problematic accuracy, by



An EOD technician unloads his equipment before preparing to dispose of malfunctioning munitions.

persons of questionable mentality.”

Yet that’s not to say EOD specialists are daredevils, they just love what they do.

When EOD is called out to inspect a suspicious package, “a whole chain of events begins” according to Drum.

Before arriving on the scene the EOD team

“formulates a logical attack plan” prior to approaching a suspect item, added Drum.

We just can’t assume we know what we’re up against.

- Master Sgt. Robert Drum

“Because it could be a myriad of things, we get as much info as possible and try not to have any foregone conclusions—you never know what to expect,” said Drum. “We just can’t assume we know what we’re up against.”

For the most part, suspicious packages turn out to be false alarms.

Yet, that seems to be the appeal for the EOD technicians—the uncertainty of the job and the reasoning involved in diffusing the weapon of destruction.

It is definitely not an occupation for the meek or faint-hearted.



An EOD technician cuts a time fuse before disposing of unserviceable munitions. The time fuse allows the technician to gage how much time is required to safely depart the area before the explosive detonates.

Chaplain's Corner...

MiG-29 training in Key West brings back memories of Cold War

*By Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Steven E. Thompson
125th Fighter Wing Chaplain*

I grew up in Virginia Beach, Va. I grew up during a time when the Cold War was reality, not the distant memory it is today.

My elementary school classes practiced nuclear attack drills more often than fire drills. I will never forget turning over my little desk in my classroom and positioning myself so that my desk would block flying glass and debris. These procedures seem a little silly now in light of the massive damage that would have been caused by a series of nuclear detonations within a few miles of our school, but we took those drills very serious. I guess there was a sense of comfort in having something to do, even if that something was woefully inadequate. I don't remember worrying about it, but I had no

doubt that the leaders of the Soviet Union would prefer living in Virginia than Siberia.

I didn't know much about communism or communists, but I was sure that the Russians were bent on forcing me to be one. The future seemed simple, if not scary. One day we would fight that old big bear and only one of us would win. No doubt many of our fears were unwarranted, fueled by misunderstandings on both sides.

Praise the Lord the Cold War is over. Now the people who lived in darkness have the opportunity to respond to a great light! (Isaiah 9:2). Nonetheless, I must confess that I had a chilling moment as I looked across the flight line at Key West, Fla. and saw those MiG-29's with that big red star on their tails.

Twenty years ago that same scene would have evidenced

that the Russians had emerged victorious and we had been annexed into the USSR.

When I looked at those planes, I felt a lump in my throat, goose bumps on my arms, and my heart swelled as I thought about those American soldiers, sailors, airmen, Marines and Coast Guardsmen and Presidents like Kennedy and Reagan who stood on the wall and resisted the ideology founded on intimidation and lies.

My thoughts were thoughts of gratitude to God for those who sat in foxholes and cockpits, turned wrenches and carried rifles, spanned rice patties and oceans, and who treated the wounded and honored the dead.

My Key West thoughts were about all those patriots, just like you, who pay the price for our freedoms, freedoms that are never truly free!



Photo by courtesy of Ollie Atkins' Photograph Collection

School children duck for cover under their desks during an H-Bomb drill. The National Educational Association instructed many teachers to practice the "duck and cover" air raid drill with their classes during the 1950's. Duck and cover was thought to be a way to prevent the country's children from harm in the case of a nuclear attack by the Soviet Union. The civil defense practice left an indelible impression on the now-grown-up children of the post-World War II "baby boom" generation.

Education Expo

*By Maj. Kevin T. Cotton
125th Fighter Wing
Military Equal Opportunity Officer*

The 125th Fighter Wing military equal opportunity office partnered with the base education office to host an education expo for unit personnel. Several unit members took advantage of the opportunity to meet the representatives from 15 colleges and universities. The education expo attracted members from across the rank structure, some looking to enhance their education to progress in the unit.

Colleges and universities participating in the education expo included the First Coast Higher Education Association member schools – the University of Phoenix, Florida Community College at Jacksonville, Jacksonville University, Jones College, Webster University, ITT, Florida Coastal School of Law, University of North Florida, Columbia University, Nova Southeastern University, and Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University – in addition to Liberty University and Southern Illinois University.

Airman Danielle D. Hines from the 159th Fighter Squadron is a junior at Florida A&M University. Hines said she stopped by to talk with the college representatives and to “see what the different schools have to offer.”

According to Senior Master Sgt. Reese D. Edwards, supervisor of the base education office, Air National



Photo by Master Sgt. Lea A. Steiner

Dr. Frank King of Liberty University talks with Tech. Sgt. Roger K. Madore and Staff Sgt. Jennifer L. Koonce of Security Forces during the Education Expo held at the 125th Fighter Wing, Aug. 10, 2002.

Guard members “have a number of educational benefits available to them to ease the financial burden of attending college.”

The EDD program pays 100% of tuition at Florida public colleges and universities for qualified members. The STEP program pays 50% tuition for qualified members. Also, effective Oct. 1 2002, the Air Force will pay 100% of tuition costs and all fees required for college enrollment, not to exceed \$250.00 per semester hour with an annual cap of \$4,500.

The educational benefits are attracting those who otherwise may not have considered the Guard, as well as those Guard members who may not have considered a college degree, according to Tech. Sgt. Earl G. Davis, an education specialist here.

“As more benefits come on-line we are seeing more and more people seeking those programs,” Davis stated.

State Tuition Exemption Program (STEP)

- Total time in service less than 15 years.
- Three-year obligation.
- Does not have a bachelor's degree.
- Remains a member in good standing.
- Ten years to use benefit.
- Used to earn up to bachelor's degree.

Educational Dollars For Duty (EDD)

- For enlistees who have not been a member of the Florida National Guard before July 1, 1997.
- Less than 15 years total service.
- Airmen must sign EDD Memorandum of Agreement.
- Three year obligation.
- Does not have a bachelor's degree.
- Cannot utilize until Basic Military Training (BMT) & Tech School completion.

- Five-year clock starts at completion of BMT & Tech School for non-prior service and at enlistment date for prior service.
- Remains a member in good standing.
- Used to earn up to bachelor's degree.

Air Force Tuition Assistance (AFTA)

- Must be on active duty for a period of 180 or more days.
- Tour extends beyond course end date.
- Course required to obtain a degree.
- Courses from accredited institutions.
- All students must satisfactorily complete TA course or reimburse the government.

Change of Command

End of one era, beginning of another

*By Maj. Richard E. Bittner
125th Fighter Wing Public Affairs*

The legacy of superior leadership of the 125th Fighter Wing continued as command of the wing changed hands in a formal ceremony here Sunday, Aug. 11, 2002.

Colonel Charles V. Ickes II, former commander, departed the 125th after providing over six years of superior leadership to the wing to assume the duties of Chief Operating Officer for the Air National Guard in Washington D.C.

Colonel James A. Firth assumed command from Ickes in the traditional manner – by receiving the unit guide-on ceremoniously in front of the assembled command – as a symbol of the continuity of command.

Major Gen. Douglas Burnett, Adjutant General of the Florida National Guard and former 125th fighter pilot, was the guest speaker.

So who is this man behind the name that will lead our unit into the unknown future? A look at his life history may clarify that question.

Firth entered this world Sep. 4, 1958 in South Bend, Ind., the son of Don and Carol Firth.

He joined an older brother Tom and a younger sister, Wendy, would follow.

The family moved to St. Louis, Mo. early on and Firth attended schools in the St. Louis area.

Firth attended Des Peres Elementary, North Kirkwood Junior High and graduated from Kirkwood High School in



Photo by Senior Master Sgt. Robert H. Tanner

Brigadier Gen. Emmett R. Titshaw, commander of the Florida Air National Guard, passes on the 125th guide-on to Col. James A. Firth. Firth took command of the 125th Fighter Wing from Col. Charles V. Ickes, II Aug. 11.

1976. He enjoyed sports, scouting and art growing up.

As a child, Firth focused on two major dreams – to be a professional athlete and to be a fighter pilot.

He seriously considered a third profession as a painter early on but decided to discount the starving artist role in favor of a more fulfilling profession.

Firth was inspired to fly by an uncle who lived in Starke, Fla. who owned his own airplane and also flew as a navigator in B-17's during WWII.

A second cousin also contributed to Firth's desire to fly. The cousin graduated from the fifth U.S. Air Force

Academy class and flew F-4's in Viet Nam.

In college, at the U. S. Air Force Academy, where Firth majored in Management and Economics and played intercollegiate baseball, he found that he had to make a choice between the two passions, athletics or flying and, luckily for us, he chose flying and the Air Force as his life's work.

Following graduation from the Academy in 1980, Firth attended pilot training at Vance AFB in Enid, Oklahoma.

He remained there for his first operational assignment

Continued...

serving as a T-38 Instructor Pilot from 1981 to 1984.

He then transferred to Randolph AFB, Texas in San Antonio as a member of the Air Training Command Standardization and Evaluation Team.

In 1986 Firth began lead-in fighter pilot training with follow-on training in the F-15 and assignment to Bitburg AB, Germany from 1987 to 1990.

Firth served as an F-15 Instructor Pilot, Squadron Weapons Officer, Flight Commander, and Wing Weapons Officer at Bitburg.

In 1990, Firth left active duty and began dual careers with Delta Air Lines and the Florida Air National Guard.

He was the first F-15 pilot hired by the 125th.

During his career with the 125th he has served in numerous roles, including

Flight Commander and Training Officer, playing a lead role in the unit's 1995 upgrade from the F-16 to the F-15 aircraft.

He served as project officer for several deployments including the 125th's first deployment in an air superiority role to Nellis AFB, Nev. for Exercise Green Flag in 1996.

He also served as the lead project officer responsible for organizing, funding, manning, and constructing facilities for a new training organization within the 125th Operations Group.

He followed that assignment with the command of the 159th Fighter Squadron from 1999 to 2001.

Under his command, the 159th was the first ever U.S. based fighter squadron to deploy to Laage, Germany to

train against the Soviet-made MiG-29.

In 2001, he became the Director of Operations for the Florida Air National Guard.

Firth assumed his current responsibilities as commander of the 125th Fighter Wing in August 2002.

He has accumulated over 3300 hours in military aircraft, with over 1400 hours in the F-15.

Firth never thought his career at the FANG would develop to this pinnacle.

He just wanted to continue flying fighters after leaving active duty in 1990.

After witnessing the talent and dedication of the people of the 125th Fighter Wing, however, he felt he wanted to become much more involved, and contribute to the mission in any way he could.

Now he leads the mission.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Michelle L. Thomas



Photo by Staff Sgt. Michelle L. Thomas

A FOND FAREWELL

Colonel Chuck "Opie" Ickes gets a cooling off shower from a 125th fire truck after completing his "Fini Flight" in the F-15 Eagle Friday August 9, 2002. Ickes's wife Carol, their children, grand children and Carols' mother-in-law joined a host of current and former unit members wishing our former commander a fond farewell.



Photo by Senior Master Sgt. Robert H. Tanner

Flying High Again

*By Staff Sgt. Michelle L. Thomas
125th Fighter Wing Public Affairs*

For Air National Guard fighter pilots, training in air-to-air combat against a real-threat platform is an opportunity that is usually reserved for the active duty.

However, thanks to a German fighter wing located in what was once communist-controlled East Germany, pilots from the Florida Air National Guard, along with Top Gun Navy pilots, took to the skies this fall against the most formidable threat they will most likely face in combat—the MiG-29 Fulcrum.

Exercise Agile Archer 02, held Sept. 4 through Oct. 5 at Naval Air Facility, Key West, Fla., allowed all participating commands the chance to validate the latest tactical upgrades to their aircraft given the recent fielding of new software and hardware for both the F-15 and F-18 aircraft.

Continued on page 12...



t the MiG-29





Technical Sgt. Robert L. Soliday (right), 159th Fighter Squadron life support specialist, inspects a helmet used by the German Air Force. The MiG-29 has unique capabilities in a close-in dogfight due to its helmet-mounted sight.

Photo by Master Sgt. Shaun W. Withers

Germany's MiG-29 unit, the 73rd Fighter Wing, is based at Laage Air Base, Germany near Rostock on the Baltic coast. Before German reunification in 1990, the aircraft flew for the former

East Germany and the Warsaw Pact.

After reunification, the Fulcrums became a test wing for the German Air Force. In 1993, the unit became an operational wing. Its 24

Fulcrums and 28 pilots officially became a combined wing with an F-4 unit from Pforde Air Base in 1994.

Many of Germany's MiG-29 pilots are former F-4 pilots who were trained in the United States.

The GAF is set to replace its F-4 and MiG-29's with Eurofighters. The Eurofighter is a single-seat, twin-engine, agile combat aircraft that will be used in the air-to-air, air-to-ground and tactical reconnaissance roles.

Once the Eurofighter becomes the primary aircraft for the GAF, the U.S. will lose one of its best methods of training against one of the most potent threat platforms – the MiG-29.

"The opportunity to train against a platform such as the MiG-29 is such a rare opportunity," stated Maj. Sami D. Said,

Continued...



Photo by Staff Sgt. Michelle L. Thomas

A German Air Force crew chief inspects the cockpit of a MiG-29. Maintainers from the 125th and the GAF worked together during the month-long exercise.



Photo by Master Sgt. Shaun W. Withers

A MiG-29 closes in on a F-15 during a simulated 'dogfight' over the skies of Key West, Fla. Together, the helmet-mounted aiming system, and the Archer missile give the MiG-29 the capability to shoot missiles in dogfight situations, in which current U.S. fighters cannot.

159th Fighter Squadron Operations Officer and project officer for the deployment.

"Back at home, we can only simulate what would happen in combat with other F-15's," stated Said.

The MiG-29 Fulcrum, which became operational in 1985, was designed and produced by the Soviet Union, and was considered to be the first Russian aircraft comparable in capability and performance to U.S. F-15, F-16, and F/A-18 aircraft. The MiG-29 is operated by many of the U.S.'s potential adversaries, including Iraq.

Although the training was in "no way geared toward any potential events that may or may not occur in Iraq," Said added that the training will better prepare the pilots for anything that may arise.

While the MiG's thrust-to-weight ratio, and maneuverability are comparable to current U.S. fourth generation fighters, the aircraft "has unique capabilities in a close-in dogfight due to its helmet-mounted sight, and AA-11 Archer infra-red guided missile system" according to Col. James A. Firth, 125th Fighter Wing commander.

Together, the helmet-mounted aiming system, and the Archer missile give the MiG-29 the capability to shoot missiles in dogfight situations, in which current U.S. fighters cannot, added Firth.

Pilots were not the only 125th personnel who benefited from the exercise. A total of 310 wing personnel deployed to support the exercise. Because of the complexities of supporting their own personnel and the GAF, it was important to build a strong support system by deploying many of the Wing's various sections such as services, personnel and communications.

"I think we learned a few things about handling a large-scale deployment," said Master Sgt. Timothy C. Connahey, 125th Maintenance Squadron, who participated as a first sergeant for the exercise.

"The flying portion of the deployment took care of itself because that is what we do every day, but the other personnel 'issues' are a different story," said Connahey. "So it was important that we have a strong support system built from the very beginning."

In brief...

Chief's Corner

*Chief Master Sgt. Charles W. Wisniewski
125th Fighter Wing Command Chief*

A year has passed since the events of 9-11.

I thought that this would be a good time to say thanks to all who have stepped up to the Noble Eagle mission.

What we have accomplished here at the 125th during the past year is nothing short of amazing.

We were one of the few units in the country that were able to increase manpower simply by asking our folks to volunteer for this mission.

For those of you that will be coming off orders, thanks on behalf of the 125th and your country for your unselfish dedication to duty.

For those of you that will be staying on another year, thanks for your continued support of Noble Eagle.

As a result of your dedication to duty, the 125th was able to meet every tasking we were given. And, we did it with volunteers.

Over the last year, the 125th flew more Noble Eagle sorties than any other unit in the country.

You should be proud of this accomplishment and the part you played in it.

Post 9/11

*Tech. Sgt. Mark J. Perry,
125th Fighter Wing
Antiterrorism Coordinator*

It has been a little over one year since the terrorist attacks in New York, Pennsylvania and Washington D.C., yet the mental image of these attacks remain frozen in our minds.

However, we have not remained frozen in time.

As citizens and military members, we have applied lessons learned from those attacks and adapted to the changed realities of September 11.

Laws from around the world have been introduced to enhance terrorism preparedness and these efforts are ongoing.

Even today, President George W. Bush and the U.S. Congress are still working the final details that will establish the Homeland Security Department.

No longer can we assume that terrorism only occurs overseas.

Terrorism has reached our shores and appears to be an act that we will have to deal with for a while.

It is clear that we will continue to be tested by these new threats.

However, it is clear that we are resolved to meet the challenges that lie ahead.

PERSCO teams prove readiness is job one

RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE, Texas (AFPC) — Supporting the wartime commander is a top priority for the personnel community, and one they're aiming to improve by molding personnelists into personnel readiness warriors.

PERSCO, or Personnel Support for Contingency Operations, teams are the heart of the combat mission.

PERSCO teams are responsible for completing all personnel actions required to support deployed Air Force commanders such as—

reception processing, sustainment actions, redeployment and forward deployment actions, accountability of Air Force personnel, casualty reporting, as well as management/guidance on a myriad of other personnel-related programs.

"In the aftermath of Kosovo, the personnel community recognized the undeniable need to re-engineer PERSCO," said Col. Steven Kelley, Chief, Readiness Operations Division, Directorate of Personnel Accountability.

An Air Staff-sponsored team helped identify those problems and the team's report set the wheels in motion for the Readiness/PERSCO Reengineering Report and Action Plan approved by Lt. Gen. Peterson in October 2000.

Through hands-on training, class members learn PERSCO concepts, predeployment planning, personnel processing, strength accountability, an introduction to the MANPER-B system, sustainment actions and communications links.

News from the 125th Military Personnel Flight

Any personnel who worked even one day in support of Operation Noble Eagle or Enduring Freedom is entitled to receive a DD Form 214, Discharge/Release from Active Duty.

The Military Personnel Flight/Employments section will need a copy of all orders and amendments to complete this process in a timely manner.

It is the responsibility of each member and each orders clerk to provide this office with any and all necessary documents.

Family Readiness

Ms. Beth Eifert
125th Fighter Wing Family Readiness
Coordinator

As members of the Florida Air National Guard, we know our loved ones can be called to Active Duty at a moment's notice. What we don't always realize is how vital we are to the success of our loved one's mission. If we are well-prepared for military separation, then we feel more confident about the deployment.

The 125th offers the following services to help family members prepare:

Family Readiness Briefing:

- December 8, 2002, 2-4 p.m. in the base dining facility.
- The wing commander, Col. James A. Firth, will address your questions.
- The legal office will review information on wills and Powers of Attorney.
 - Intel, finance, and family readiness will share valuable readiness information.
- No formal childcare available (Units may offer services if their schedule permits. Please check with your guardmember's unit for more details.)
- Please arrive by 1:45 p.m. to take your seat.

New website:

www.fangfamilies.org is tailored to the needs of 125th families; shows how to create a Family Care Plan and offers referrals to local and digital helping agencies.

Family Member Digital

Network: This new service uses e-mail to keep families up to date on pertinent family readiness events and information. Check the website for more details, or ask your Guard member to sign up on the 125th intranet.

Remember, "Family Readiness" at the 125th exists to support *you* - our guardmembers and families.

Through interpersonal and virtual networks, we help families of the 125th stay connected and obtain the information they need to facilitate military separations.

If you would like more information on our programs—or to volunteer to help in the readiness effort — please call the Family Readiness office at 741-7027.



Operations Security (OPSEC)

OPSEC today, not tomorrow

By Maj. Steven R. Hilsdon
125th Fighter Wing OPSEC Officer

As the President continues to demand compliance with United Nations resolutions from Saddam Hussein, it doesn't take a fighter pilot to recognize the potential for an increased operations tempo. In light of the current circumstances, the commander has asked all of us to prepare our families and ourselves if our normal Aerospace Expeditionary Force rotation were to become much more.

Keeping this in mind, our families will have more information than the general public. Without their help in

limiting the flow of information, our mission could not succeed.

Family readiness is a top priority for the 125th, and it's important that we share information with our loved ones to ensure that readiness is at an optimum level. Spouses sharing information is an important support function, however, shopping malls, eating establishment, and other public forums are not the place to discuss FANG operations without prior approval from public affairs.

Remember, even if your deployment information isn't labeled classified, you and your family should closely guard it.

In order to prevent adversaries from gaining valuable intelligence about friendly operations, we must plan and execute OPSEC measures on a daily basis. To be effective, OPSEC must be considered as early as possible during mission planning and then be appropriately revised to keep pace with any changes in current operations.

The goal of OPSEC is increased *mission effectiveness*. OPSEC prevents an adversary from determining friendly intentions or capabilities, and reduces losses to friendly units, increasing the likelihood of mission success.

News from HQ...

FLANG experiences most beneficial fiscal year close-out in history

By Col. Joseph G. Balskus
HQ FLANG Chief of Staff

The events of Sept. 11, 2001 and the concentration of our efforts on homeland defense forced routine activities to be somewhat delayed.

One of these routine events was the distribution of our normal operating funds for fiscal year 2002.

Our funding levels were feeling the strain early-on with the increase in operations tempo coupled with the tremendous increase in full-time personnel.

While we anticipated that the vast majority of these additional costs would be reimbursed, other costs had to be absorbed within our normal funding.

Subsequently, the alarm bell went off and Maj. Roger A. Burkett and Chief Master Sgt. Ralph T. Kirkland from the 125th Financial Management office alerted state headquarters that the FLANG was spending at a rate that could not be sustained and the option of acquiring additional funds *did not* exist.

An immediate plan was established to bring the organization together.

First, 125th FM inventoried the remaining balances and then, through well-organized, weekly conference calls, funds were re-distributed through a centrally managed account.

The collective agreement each week by senior leadership ensured the entire organization met its priority obligations and that safety and mission accomplishment requirements were satisfied.

Every potential decision was tested in terms of the effects on the people and the mission.

The end result was a complete turn-around from being an organization with multiple organizations out of balance and in the red to one with impressive control over all expenditures.

State Headquarters planned with finance a combined Financial Working Group/Financial Management Board with representation from all the FLANG units and during the first part of the day a "prioritized list" agreed upon by all



Photo by Staff Sgt. Michelle L. Thomas

Maj. Roger A. Burkett and Chief Master Sgt. Ralph T. Kirkland discuss the financial strategy for the fiscal year 2003 funds. Burkett and Kirkland's efforts at the 125th Financial Management office were instrumental in the success of the end-of-year close out.

participants was established to have ready for end of the year money.

From there, it was a matter of units preparing the proper paperwork to purchase items and our financial management, contracting and supply offices standing by ready to purchase.

Remarkably, the list of purchases included long-needed items from mobility and chemical warfare defense bags to new computers and new safety equipment—items we previously did not have the money to purchase.

Even quality of life items to improve local working conditions were now items we could provide.

The efforts of the members of the FLANG, working through our outstanding Financial Management Office and State HQ resulted in purchases of over \$3.5 Million dollars and the satisfaction of all the BER III, UFR, and additional items.

These exceptional gains were accomplished through teamwork, visionary leadership and the support of all personnel.

Great work TEAM FANG!

Maintenance crew 'Keeps 'em flying'

*By Senior Airman Stephen D. Hudson
Florida National Guard Public Affairs*

Working underneath a running jet engine is not for the faint of heart, but to the crew chiefs of the 125th Fighter Wing – its just part of doing business in the Florida Air National Guard.

Since Sept. 11, 2001, the 125th Fighter Wing has flown an unprecedented number of combat air patrols over the southeastern United States, trained with a German Air Force MiG-29 unit in Key West, Fla., and is preparing for an Operation Southern Watch rotation in 2003.

Keeping the fighting force up and running is the job of the countless faces behind the



Photo by Senior Airman Stephen D. Hudson

Staff Sgt. Michael C. Vasko and Tech. Sgt. Scott Knight with the 125th Maintenance Squadron replace an F-15 canopy. Keeping the planes flying is the job of the countless faces behind the scenes at the 125th.

scenes at the 125th.

Florida Air National Guard's maintainers spend endless hours working in the Hangar and the back-shops and on the venerable F-15 Eagle.

"In a million years you never would have thought that we could've covered two alert sites and completed all our training missions at the same time," Staff Sgt. Michael S. Hudson, a crew chief with the 125th Aircraft Generation Squadron (AGS), said. "We pulled it off without any problem at all."

An underlying factor to the airmen and officers of the 125th is the high level of experience and know how on the aircraft.

Many of the maintainers have spent time on active duty and in the Guard.

Hudson added that one of the key differences between what he saw in his eight years on active duty and the Air Guard is the number of years working with the same aircraft and the same people.

On active duty, airmen work with a crew two years then move to a new assignment.

"We have guys who have been working together since the '60s," Hudson said. "These mechanics out here I would put up against anybody on active duty or any other realm of the aircraft maintenance field."

Another key aspect of the success for the maintainers is that many of the airmen are crossed-trained in several jobs and can step in to help another shop out in a pinch.

Hudson added on Sept. 11 the experience paid off and the crew chiefs, weapons loaders and other maintenance personnel were able to launch aircraft without an incident.

The mission capable rate for the 125th is over 85 percent, said Lt. Col. Ronald G. Corey, 125th AGS commander.

He attributes that to support from the back shop, attention to detail and the well-built F-15.

"We have never missed a mission tasking – that is with two alerts, a flying program and Operation Noble Eagle missions," said Corey.

To pilots like Lt. Col. T.G. Kyrakis II, who put their lives in the hands of maintenance crews, the 125th has "the best in the Air Force or Air National Guard."

Kyrakis added that the professionalism and ability to turn aircraft around with a high mission capable rate is a testament to the caliber of airmen who work diligently to keep the planes in the air.

And, with so many missions the maintenance crews will likely continue to remain busy in the months to come.

From the cockpit...

Lt. Col. T. G. "Krazy" Kyrakis, II
125th Fighter Wing Safety Office

Deployed to Key West, Fla. I am looking forward to my first sortie against the dreaded MiG-29 Fulcrum, a very maneuverable aircraft that the former Soviet Union exported to many of our potential adversary nations.

The fact that someday this type of aircraft could attack me in a future conflict convinces me to skip the evening's festivities on Duval Street and actually turn in early for the next day's pre-dawn wake-up.

It's now brief time, and the sun still hasn't cracked above the watery horizon to the east.

I am standing in the same briefing room with a former East German pilot who started his military career thinking I was a capitalistic, imperialist monster.

The smell from his morning cigarette still lingers about him in the room, and, if current US military rules allowed, I know he'd be puffing on one right now with his coffee cup in his other hand.

I start the briefing, telling him the exact time, the weather, and how the mission is going to flow in a loud, slow voice, with just a touch of what you think is a German accent to help him understand better.

He looks at me with that "what a dumkopf!" look, and his first question reveals that his command of the English language is 100 times better than the paltry few words of greeting I know in German.

I leave my German counter-part, and go strap on 40 pounds of life-support gear like I have so many times before.



Photo by Master Sgt. Shaun W. Withers

As I walk toward the F-15, I've already broken a sweat wearing all that gear in the Key West humidity, but I don't notice it.

Instead, I re-think the moves I will need in the upcoming dogfight to beat the MiG-29. The engines are now started, and the aircraft's basic navigational and weapons systems are on-line, functioning perfectly, just like every other flight.

Key West tower clears us both for takeoff, and after a few moments, I'm airborne.

I immediately turn south to the airspace, all the while looking back to see if the MiG-29 is closing in.

A black dot behind me trailing thick black smoke appears and I now realize what intelligence briefers meant when they said the MiGs' engines smoked.

The MiG, who was just flying along at my side, turns 45 degrees away from me, as I turn away from him.

After we are about four miles apart, he looks as big as the tip of a pencil lead held out at arm's length.

"Turn in, fight's on!"

...oh my god, it's really a MiG...I'm going too fast...go uphill...ugh 8.4 G's...don't over-G...losing peripheral vision...strain harder...his nose is coming around...power back...flare...

radar slewed...flare again...what's he doing?...going uphill...power back up...300 knots...going up with him...he's coming down...power back...flare!...hard buffet, can't see in the sun!...120 knots...push forward hard on that stick...WOOA!!...I hate negative G's...just one lousy lap belt is holding me in?...that canopy is hard on the head...hey...he's still below me...pulling back hard on the stick...he's going to pass through my HUD (head's up display - gunsight)...switch to Guns...squeezing trigger...s#@#! missed...he's back downhill...

stable in the HUD...squeeeeeeeze...YES!...pant pant...

As calmly and nonchalantly as possible, I transmit, "FANG ONE knock-it-off."

"MiG ONE knock it off."

I land and I can't wait to go look at the videotape replay of my gunshot just to make sure the computer system really did display about 50 bullets dancing from his cockpit, back through his fuselage down to his engines.

And, as I make my way back to the hangar, I wonder what the picture would look like if this had taken place over the hostile skies of Iraq, with real bullets.

Senior leaders expand Air Force anthrax vaccine program

By Staff Sgt. C. Todd Lopez
Air Force Print News

Air Force senior leaders recently approved expansion of the Anthrax Vaccine Immunization Program within the service, meaning more members will be asked to roll up their sleeves in the near future.

The Air Force Anthrax Vaccine Implementation Plan was distributed to commanders Oct. 11, said Maj. Linda Bonnel of the Air Force Medical Operations Agency.

"Installations are to implement the Air Force plan immediately and expand anthrax vaccination to include Priority II personnel," Bonnel said.

Priority II personnel are military members, emergency-essential DOD civilians and specified contractors assigned or deployed to designated higher threat areas for more than 15 consecutive days, Bonnel said.

Priority I personnel, who recently began receiving the vaccine, include those in designated special mission units and anthrax vaccine manufacturing and DOD research personnel. Higher threat areas include countries primarily in Southwest Asia, the major said.

Individuals who fall within the Priority II description will be notified of their need for the anthrax vaccine, Bonnel said.

The public health office at each installation will maintain a complete list of the most current higher threat areas and will ensure troops receive all required force health protection measures prior to deployment.

"The health and safety of our troops is our No. 1 concern," Bonnel said.

"Vaccination offers a layer of protection – in addition to antibiotics and other measures – that is needed for certain members of the armed forces."

The FDA has determined that the current anthrax vaccine is safe and effective in protecting against all forms of anthrax infection, a scientific conclusion that was recently supported by the Institute of Medicine, Bonnel said.

The FDA-licensed schedule for the anthrax vaccine calls for doses at intervals of two and four weeks after the initial dose, followed by doses at the six,

12 and 18 month points, plus annual boosters.

Individuals who had previously started the anthrax vaccine series will pick up with the next dose due, Bonnel said.

The AVIP was first started in 1998, primarily for those personnel assigned or deployed to Southwest Asia and Korea.

Since that time, the program has undergone a number of changes.

Most recently, administration of the vaccine has been restricted to a relatively small number of personnel as part of a slowdown due to production and supply issues.

Since these issues have been resolved, the program is being reintroduced per recent DOD policy.

For more information about the anthrax vaccine, check the official DOD website <http://www.anthrax.mil>.



Air Force Link photo

Mission-ready aircrew members inspect each others' aircrew ensemble protective masks in the decontamination line during a combat readiness inspection. Anthrax is lethal when inhaled and more potent than deadly chemical warfare agents. It's almost always fatal among unprotected people.

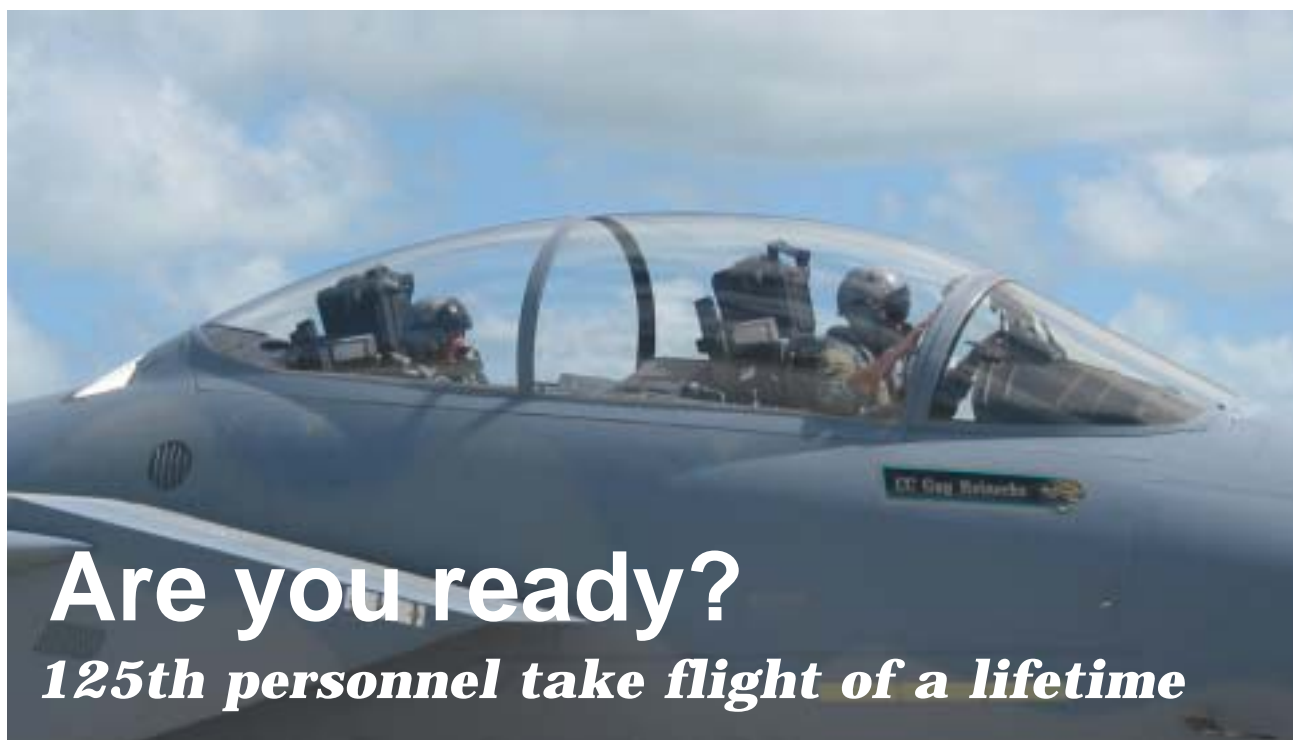


Photo by Staff Sgt. Michelle L. Thomas

*By Senior Airman Michael A. Sitjar
125th Maintenance Squadron*

The straps have been secured on the safety harness as the canopy closes. Inside the helmet, the pilot talks to the crew chief during the pre flight inspection as the engines warm up.

Bang! “Left ramp down,” the computer says in your helmet.

As the plane taxis to the runway, the pilots turns and utters “We’ll be going straight up to 1600 feet. You’ll feel a slight tug. Are you ready?”

The momentum shifts from a complete standstill to a pace that can only be compared

to an old muscle car on a midnight drag...

“Anyone that has never had one should take it and enjoy it for what it is,” said Senior Airman Benton O. Scott, 125th Maintenance Squadron.

“You may never have another chance like this again.”

As part of Agile Archer 02, the 125th Fighter Wing hosted incentive flights to deserving Guard personnel.

In all, 30 members of the Florida Air National Guard were granted the opportunity to do what many only dream of—fly in an F-15.

The incentive flight is just one way top performers are rewarded for being the best of the best.

While deployed to train with the German Air Force, the 125th conducted regular training and operations.

However, time was set aside for incentive rides to show appreciation for all the hard work during not only the training deployment, but for Operation Noble Eagle as well.

Many of the members who received incentive rides were activated after 9/11.

“There is nothing I know of that we can do for our people that has such a lasting effect,” said Chief Master Sgt. Franklin R. Archer, 125th Maintenance Squadron.

“Our people work on and around these jets, hear and read all kinds of stories about the very thing they touch everyday, but they never

Continued...



Technical Sgt. Susanne M. Ottlein climbs aboard the F-15, ready to begin her 40-minute incentive flight. Incentive flights reward deserving airman for their professionalism and hardwork.

Photo by Master Sgt. Shaun W. Withers

have the opportunity to experience the sensations of flight or see their labors put in use,” said Archer.

After the member is informed that they are chosen for the ride, he or she reports directly to the flight surgeon to be medically cleared for take off.

Then, the soon-to-be flier makes his or her way to life support to be fitted with the proper gear.

While in life support, they are briefed on the different procedures such as safety and basic aircraft information.

“There’s a lot to it,” said Senior Master Sgt. David B. Seabrook, 159th Fighter Squadron life support specialist.

“It’s not like hopping in an airplane and taking off. While we are fitting them, we’re

talking to them and briefing them on procedures.”

Once prepared and properly fitted, the pilot gives a short briefing detailing the route they will take and describes the basic maneuvers during the flight.

The pilot and his newly inducted, honoree co-pilot then step to the aircraft and prepare to embark on an unparalleled journey few people ever undertake.

“There is nothing else like it,” said Staff Sgt. Michelle L. Thomas, 125th Public Affairs NCOIC.

“When we climbed straight up into the sky I turned back and watched the earth rapidly shrinking—it was amazing,” said Thomas. “Roller coasters just won’t be the same anymore.”

Intel travels to Margaritaville

*By 1st Lt. W. Robert Cannon
125th Operations Support Flight Intelligence*

When the 125th Fighter Wing deployed to Naval Air Facility Key West to train against the MiG-29 Fulcrum during Agile Archer 02, the intelligence section took advantage of this once-in-a-lifetime event to maximize training on what is arguably today’s greatest airborne threat to our F-15s.

More than 30 intelligence professionals from throughout the Combat Air Forces attended the five-day intelligence conference. The conference brought unprecedented access to the MiG-29 Fulcrum.

Lieutenant Col. Fred “Spanky” Clifton, the first USAF exchange pilot to fly the MiG-29 in the German Air Force, Maj. Doug “Vinnie” Russell, the current USAF exchange pilot flying the MiG-29, and Lt. Col. Udo “Sadzu” Sadzulewski of the German Air Force, one of the few remaining MiG pilots who flew the MiG-29 during the Cold War as a member of the German Democratic Republic’s Air Force, all shared their knowledge and first hand experiences of flying the MiG-29.

Conference attendees followed F-15 and MiG-29 pilots through pre-mission briefings and debriefings to learn the strengths and weaknesses of both aircraft in mock aerial combat. Capt. Leah Lauderback of the USAF Fighter Weapons School briefed conference



Photo by Master Sgt. Shaun W. Withers

Intelligence professionals from active duty Air Force, Reserve and Air National Guard units form up for a group photo following an up-close and personal inspection of the MiG-29 Fulcrum aircraft.

attendees on the tactics used to defeat the MiG-29 while members of the German Air Force allowed conference attendees to actually sit in the MiG-29 and wear the helmet-mounted sight to see how it integrates with the Infra-red Search and Track System (IRSTS) and the AA-11 Archer air-to-air missile. The integration of these systems makes the MiG-29 a formidable adversary in the dogfight arena.

“This is an unbelievable opportunity,” said Lt. Col. Julia A. Kyrakis, Chief of Intelligence, 125th Operations Support Flight. “When I first started in this career field, what we knew about the (MiG-29) Fulcrum was limited and the information was sensitive. Now I am standing here in Key West, Florida actually sitting in the cockpit. This is a tremendous opportunity.”

In the Spotlight...

Senior Master Sgt. Sherry M. Evans



Photo by Staff Sgt. Michelle L. Thomas

Senior Master Sgt. Sherry M. Evans unties a pallet that returned from Key West, Fla. While deployed in support of Agile Archer 02, Evans assisted in coordinating the delivery of all equipment for the 125th and the German Air Force prior to and after the exercise.

For the past four months, Evans has been the full-time Logistics Management Specialist. A 17-year veteran of the FLANG, she has also worked in Supply [in Repair Cycle, Demand Processing and Stock Control] and in Traffic Management as the Traffic Manager.

She is married to Master Sgt. Daryl S. Evans and they have a three year-old daughter, Sheryl Brianna.

Evans is enjoying her new position. "In my job, I get to see a lot of behind-the-scene activity that goes into making a deployment happen. I have the opportunity to observe the various elements of a deployment come together and be successful. Being part of a deployment from beginning to end makes you appreciate the details and all of the work that goes into it. It is a rewarding experience getting to observe the members of our unit and their expertise in action."

The Logistics Plans Officer, Capt. Robert T. Botkin is thrilled to have Evans as a part of his team.

"She's a highly motivated, outstanding individual. No task is too big for her. She's always willing to help and is well respected among her peers."

Maj. Sami D. Said, the Agile Archer 02 Project Officer was thrilled with Evans' performance.

"Evans' first task at her new job in the Logistics Office was to plan and execute the most complicated and challenging deployment the FANG has ever been on, and she did that flawlessly!"

Senior Master Sgt. Mark A. Penwell

Penwell came to the Florida Air National Guard from the Illinois Air National Guard in Peoria, Ill. where he spent 12 years. He has worked as the full-time Base Contracting Officer here for the past six years.

A single parent, Penwell lives in Kingsland, Ga. with his eight-year old son, Allan, an honor roll student at Malitda Harris Elementary School.

According to Penwell, the best part of his job is, "Satisfying the needs of the base and providing the members with faster and better service than expected."

Major Richard D. Entwistle, the Logistics Division Chief contends that Penwell does his job quite well.

"From the day he arrived at the 125th Fighter Wing, he has been a positive force in our organization with a "Can Do" attitude, a motivator of our enlisted force and a team player," said Entwistle. "Contracting is a very difficult area to work and Penwell and his office do an outstanding job in the procurement process for the 125th Fighter Wing and our Geographically Separated Units."

Major Sami D. Said, the Agile Archer 02 Project Officer was very impressed with Penwell's performance during the Wing's most recent deployment.

"Penwell's resilience, dedication and hard work allowed us to overcome a few seemingly insurmountable obstacles to our Key West deployment," stated Said. "He was a key player in making Agile Archer 02 a reality."



Photo by Staff Sgt. Michelle L. Thomas

Promotions

To Lt Col

Julia A. Kyrakis, 125OSF
Robert G. Pate, 159FS

To Major

Barry D. Wilkes, 159FS

To Captain

Adam W. Langton, 159FS

To Senior Master Sergeant

Calvin Jones, 125CES
Donald J. Knight, 125MS

To Master Sergeant

Philip J. Braswell, 125MS
David P. Clay, 125CES
Robert Drum, 125CES
Michael E. Holder, 125CES
Cameron E. Matthews, 125MS
Paul C. Porter, 125LS
Daniel T. Strickland, 125MS
Jackson R. Terrill, 125SFS
Daryl G. Zoller, 125LS

To Technical Sergeant

Donnell G. Devine, 125LS
Carmaleta M. Lane, 125FW
Brian E. Manges, 125FW

Pedro Negron, 125CF
Isaac F. Rector, 125MS
Johnny C. White, 125LS
Jack E. Yates, 125LS

To Staff Sergeant

George Bruer Jr., 125LS
Tara M. Connelly, 125MSF
Ronald L. Green, 125AGS
Angela F. Lee, 125MSF
Corey N. Thompson, 125MS
Jason Tilson, 125OG
Lee O. Tucker, 125CF

To Senior Airman

Joshua Chambers, 125FW
Jason S. Clark, 125MS
Frank G. Enright, 125SFS
Glenn T. Fritch, 125SFS
Brian M. Henry, 125MS
Crystal L. Kincade, 125SFS
Jimmie Lee, 125LS
Michael C. Patrick, 125SFS
Joseph E. Paxton, 125SFS
Robert Sepulveda, 125MS

To Airman 1st Class

Richard Vandersteen III, 125LS

Welcome

Maj Eric L. Bloomfield, 125MEDS
Maj Joshua S. Kucker, 125MEDS
Capt Gary W. Mahanes, 125MEDS
MSgt Deborah A. Silver, 125FW
TSgt Donna R. Kaspari, 125MS
SSgt Frank A. Kobes, 125AGS
SSgt Crystal S. Montandon, 125LS
SSgt Randall W. Moyle, 125AGS
SSgt Roy J. Ratliff, 125LS
SSgt Kimberly R. Reichard, 125CES
SSgt Michael A. Rigsby, 125CES
SSgt Michael Schaefferkoetter, 125MS
SrA Timothy W. Bedingfield, 125SFS
SrA Scott J. Boever, 125AGS
SrA Wilhelm K. Bowers, 125AGS
SrA John S. Daniel, 125MS
SrA Kathleen I. Gilbert, 125AGS
SrA Genevieve A. Hanna, 125MS
SrA Tarrel U. Jackson, 125LS
SrA Geoffrey L. Overcash, 125LS
SrA Andy F. Pick, 125AGS
SrA Wesley L. Prater, 125LS
SrA Patrick K. Richards, 125MS
SrA Cody J. Sansbury, 125MS
A1C Aaron D. Alfors, 125MS
A1C Stephen J. Collier, 125CES
A1C Timothy A. Drury, 125AGS
A1C Alfred L. Forbes Jr., 125MS
A1C Kamal K. Malik, 125SVF
A1C Kenneth J. Perry, 125MEDS
A1C Daniel A. Redmon, 125SFS
A1C Edward S. Rodgers, 125CES
A1C Ryan W. Schott, 125CES
A1C Renzo K. Sheppard, 125LS
A1C Antwan L. Stewart, 125SFS
A1C Jamie A. Tonkinson, 125MS

Farewell

SMSgt George H. Floyd III, 125LS
MSgt Akira H. Cheung, 125MSF
MSgt Jimmie W. Pittman, 125MS
TSgt Leticia D. Clark, 125MEDS
TSgt Michael Grindle, 125MS
TSgt George L. Henderson, 125CF
TSgt Troy T. Hunter III, 125CF
SSgt Frederick Matthews, 125CF
SSgt Jeremiah Robinson Jr., 125LS

Florida Air National Guard Retiree's Association

By Ernie Webster

*President, Florida Air National Guard
Retiree's Association (FLANGRA)*

Thank you for your attendance at our dinner at the Jacksonville Naval Air Station Officer's Club. We had 111 people in attendance including the members of the Falcon Chapter of the Air Force Association. I hope everyone had an enjoyable evening.

Major Gen. Craig R. McKinley gave us an excellent briefing on the current state of affairs and the responsibilities of 1st Air Force and the SouthEast Air Defense Sector. We really appreciate him taking the time to be with us.

Technical Sgt. Susan M. Mason is the new 125th Historian. She had a lot of old pictures that many of the retiree's enjoyed. If you have old pictures or can help identify some of the old-timers, contact her at 741-7031.

Our thanks to Don Barnhart and Fred Dunkley for their efforts at Camp Blanding to finish the F-106 Heritage Project. They have finished the concrete walkway around the back of the airplane. We still need help with the final landscaping and need to sell some bricks to pay for the end of the project. To buy a brick contact me at (904) 724-8782, Jack Stuart at (904) 757-1327, or Frank Kozdras at (904) 448-4760.

I am glad to report that Earl Watson is home and recovering from his bout in the hospital. We hope to see you next time, Earl. We also send our best to the family of Andy Andrews. We will miss him.

Our next meeting is scheduled for April 25, 2003. We are planning on having one of our Guardsmen from the new unit at Cape Kennedy as speaker. Hope you can come!

- Ernie



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125th Fighter Wing (ACC)
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